

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 8, 2009

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ASIAN FESTIVAL AT GARFIELD PARK CELEBRATES ART, CULTURE, CUISINE

INDIANAPOLIS – (May 8, 2009) Experience the rich cultural heritage of Asia at Garfield Park this Saturday during the second annual Asian Festival, presented by Asian American Alliance, Inc. (AAAI) and Indy Parks & Recreation.

Festival highlights include:

- Cultural entertainment throughout the day at the Asian-inspired Garfield Park Pagoda
- Fashion show featuring costumes from represented Asian countries
- Art exhibit featuring artwork and cultural regalia from local Asian artists
- Free health screenings including blood pressure, cholesterol, blood sugar levels, body mass index and dental hygiene education
- Food available for purchase from Central Indiana Asian restaurants
- Asian merchandise vendors

The festival will be 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, May 9, 2009, at the Garfield Park Arts Center. Admission is free. Indianapolis Mayor Gregory A. Ballard will arrive at the festival at 2 p.m.

“Asian American Alliance, in partnership with Indy Parks, is proud to present this festival which highlights the rich cultural heritage of Asia that can be found in Central Indiana that makes it a more vibrant, interesting place to live,” said AAAI President Vince Wong. “The lush backdrop of Garfield Park is a great venue to display the wonderful cuisine, costume, arts, music, dance, and crafts of Asia. Instead of flying 18 hours to travel to Asia, this family-friendly event allows Central Indiana residents to experience a bit of Asia in their backyard.”

The Asian Festival, held in May in conjunction with Asian Pacific-American Heritage Month, is a collaborative effort between AAAI, Indy Parks, the Garfield Park Arts Center and its Advisory Council



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and is sponsored by National City Bank, PNC, and Western Union. AAAI, a local, non-profit organization with a mission to inspire Asian Americans to lead and serve, will award scholarships during the festival to IPS students and Asian American leadership students.

Throughout the month of May, the Garfield Park Arts Center is exhibiting a variety of visual art from the local Asian community in the main and lower level galleries. More than half of the exhibit is dedicated to the work of youth artists from the local Asian community.

“The Asian Festival showcases the diverse arts and cultures Indy Parks’ staff champion at our Garfield Park Arts Center and incorporate into programming in our parks and family centers,” said Indy Parks Director Stuart Lowry. “Art is something we promote every day through our arts center. We hope to sustain partnerships with organizations like Asian American Alliance and look forward to celebrating the rich diversity of our communities with more programs like the Asian Festival.”

WHAT: 2ND ANNUAL ASIAN FESTIVAL

WHERE: GARFIELD PARK ARTS CENTER
2432 CONSERVATORY DRIVE
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46203

WHEN: 11 A.M. – 5 P.M. SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2009

ADMISSION: FREE

EDITORS: The attached photos were taken at the 2008 Asian Festival in Garfield Park on May 10, 2008. Please credit Quay Kester, Evoke Communications, copyright 2008.

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